

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 091132

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DRAFTED BY: NASA/I/B. GOETZ

APPROVED BY: SCI/SAM:WACHAPIN

AF:E:RBRESLER

CONCURRENCE: I/KFMAUTNER

TD/BROCKETT

I/SEDOYLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 091132

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS

SUBJECT: NASA STATION NEGOTIATIONS--VISIT OF MALAGASY AMBASSADOR

1. AT RECENT MEETING OF LOCAL US/MALAGASY FRIENDSHIP CLUB, AMBASSADOR RAHARIJAONA EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR VERY INFORMAL WORKING LEVEL VISIT TO NASA'S TEST AND TRAINING FACILITY (NTTF) OPERATED BY TRACKING DIRECTORATE OF GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER. VISIT OCCURRED APRIL 24. AMBASSADOR ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE AND MOTHER.

2. THOUGH VISIT INFORMAL, APPARENT AMBASSADOR ON FACT FINDING MISSION. HE SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN NUMBER OF NASA TRACKING STATIONS OPERATED TOTALLY BY HOST COUNTRY NATIONALS (CURRENTLY ONLY SOUTH AFRICA, AUSTRALIA, AND SPAIN WITH CHILE STATION ALMOST) AND TIMING OF THIS STEP WITHIN ROUGHLY FROM 5-8 YEARS.

3. AMBASSADOR PRESSED BENDIX PERSONNEL (WHO MAN NTTF) RE SELECTION METHOD OF TRAINEES, REPORTED ENGLISH LANGUAGE
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PAGE 02 STATE 091132

PROBLEMS, SLOWNESS IN IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM, ETC.

4. SELECTION PROCEDURE AND TESTING WAS EXPLAINED AS STANDARD THROUGHOUT SYSTEM. NTTF PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN GENERALLY VERY PLEASED WITH ABILITY OF MALAGASY STUDENTS AND LANGUAGE HAS NOT BEEN PROBLEM IN GENERAL INTRODUCTORY COURSES. AMBASSADOR WAS BRIEFED ON LAB FACILITIES AT MADAGASCAR STATION (WHICH HE HAS NEVER VISITED) AND FACT THAT ADDITIONAL ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR HAS BEEN SENT WITHIN LAST 90 DAYS. MENTION MADE OF SEQUENTIAL NATURE OF TRAINING PROGRAM FROM SUCCESSFUL TRIAL PROGRAM INITIATED IN 1969 TO UPDATED AND EXPANDED ONES APPROVED 1971 AND JANUARY 1974. NO TIMETABLE WAS LAID OUT FOR EVENTUAL TAKE-OVER ALTHOUGH POINT CLEARLY MADE THAT TO DEGREE POSSIBLE NASA PREFERS TO MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION IN OWN SELF INTEREST AS WELL AS HOST COUNTRY INTEREST.

5. AMBASSADOR APPARENTLY NOT FAMILIAR WITH TRAINING PROGRAM AND APPEARED IMPRESSED BY FACILITY, NUMBER, AND COMPLEXITY OF OPERATIONS. HE WAS SHOWN COPIES OF TRAINING MATERIALS AND TOOK WITH HIM CATALOG OF COURSES OFFERED.

6. AS TOUR CLOSED AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT HE WISHED HE HAD SEEN FACILITY SOONER AND STATED HE WOULD MAKE REPORT TO HIS GOVERNMENT FOR USE IN NEGOTIATIONS BEGUN WITH VISIT OF FM RATSIRAKA LAST YEAR.

7. ASA REELS THAT MEETING WAS USEFUL EXPOSURE FOR AMBASSADOR AND THAT HIS QUESTIONS WERE ANSWERED STRAIGHT-FORWARDLY AND FULLY.

8. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FEEDBACK EMBASSY MAY GET FROM AMBASSADOR'S REPORT.

9. ON SEPARATE MATTER, C.A. TAYLOR, NASA'S DIRECTOR OPERATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS/ADP PLANS VISIT LATE MAY TO STATION FOR BUDGET DISCUSSION, ASSESSMENT OF TRAINING PROGRAM AND DISCUSSIONS OF EXCESS PROPERTY DISPOSAL. HE WILL TOUCH BASE WITH EMBASSY BUT PLANS NO DISCUSSIONS WHILE THERE RE NEGOTIATIONS.

ITINERARY WILL BE SUPPLIED SEPTTEL.
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PAGE 03 STATE 091132

"END" RUSH

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